

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-37 (cancelled)

38. (new) A system to facilitate escape from a building in an emergency which comprises:

a monitoring system for protecting at least a part of a building for a life threatening conditions selected from the group consisting of fire, seismological and terrorist threats which includes a security system including a microprocessor.

a fire ladder having a compact position and a deployed position, the fire ladder in the deployed position extending generally vertically, said fire ladder having rungs;

a mounting for said fire ladder proximate to the lower edge of an associated window in the building, said mounting releasably retaining the fire ladder in said compact position; and

a release for said fire ladder that is responsive to said monitoring system.

39. (new) The system as described in claim 38 wherein the monitoring system includes photoelectric apparatus.

40. (new) The system as described in claim 38 wherein the monitoring system includes ionization apparatus.

41. (new) The system as described in claim 38 wherein the system utilizes fuzzy logic.

42. (new) The system as described in claim 38 wherein the system utilizing Boolean logic.

43. The system as described in claim 38 wherein the system utilizes a thermistor.

44. (new) The system as described in claim 38 wherein the system utilizes a plurality of thermistors.

45. (new) The system as described in claim 38 wherein the system includes a manual release for the ladder.

46. (new) The system as described in claim 38 wherein the system includes a radiofrequency transmitter.

47. (new) The system as described in claim 38 wherein the system includes a radiofrequency receiver.

48. (new) The system as described in claim 38 wherein the rungs of the ladder have projections dimensioned and configured to rest against the side of the associated building when the ladder is deployed along the side of the associated building.

49. (new) A method to facilitate escape from a building in an emergency which comprises:

monitoring at least a part of a building for a life threatening conditions selected from the group consisting of fire, seismological and terrorist threats utilizing a security system that includes a microprocessor;

providing a fire ladder having a compact position and a deployed position, and which in the deployed position extends generally vertically and has rungs;

mounting the fire ladder proximate to the lower edge of an associated window in a building and releasably retaining the fire ladder in the compact position; and

releasing the fire ladder that is responsive to the monitoring step.

50. (new) The method as described in claim 49 wherein the monitoring step is performed with photoelectric apparatus.

51. (new) The method as described in claim 49 wherein the monitoring step is performed with ionization apparatus.

52. (new) The method as described in claim 49 wherein the monitoring step is performed in a manner that utilizes fuzzy logic.

53. (new) The method as described in claim 49 wherein the monitoring step is performed in a manner that utilizes Boolean logic.

54. (new) The method as described in claim 49 wherein the monitoring step is performed in a manner that utilizes a thermistor.

55. (new) The method as described in claim 49 wherein the monitoring step is performed in a manner that utilizes a plurality of thermistors.

56. (new) The method as described in claim 49 wherein the method includes providing a manual release for the ladder.

57. (new) The method as described in claim 49 wherein the method includes providing a radiofrequency transmitter.

58. (new) The method as described in claim 49 wherein the method includes providing a radiofrequency receiver.

59. (new) The method as described in claim 49 wherein the method includes providing rungs of the ladder that have projections dimensioned and configured to

rest against the side of the associated building when the ladder is deployed along the side of the associated building.